

WHAT'S *New*

in the Metropolitan Police Department



*A weekly update for residents, visitors,
and workers in the District of Columbia*

Friday, March 25, 2005

MAYOR TOUTS CRIME REDUCTION, OUTLINES PUBLIC SAFETY PLANS IN STATE OF DISTRICT ADDRESS

Declaring that “we are safer today,” Mayor Williams this past week outlined his plans for public safety in the coming year, during his annual State of the District Address. “The number of police officers in DC has grown to 3,800, and violent crime has gone down by 34 percent in our toughest neighborhoods,” the Mayor said, referring to crime reductions in the 14 areas designated as “hot spots” during 2004. Using Sursum Corda as an example, the Mayor described how a concerted, multi-agency effort in that Northwest community has contributed to a 43 percent reduction in violent crime, as well as expanded services, including a new playground built by private sector partners. The Mayor outlined the next step in this process: transforming “hot spots” into “new communities” that include improved schools, libraries, job training, recreation and health facilities. In his annual speech, the Mayor also focused on the problem of juvenile crime, stating that “we must do a better job of protecting our children from violence.” As a follow-up to the juvenile justice bill he signed in December, the Mayor said he will send to the Council this year an Omnibus Crime Bill that will “increase penalties for crimes committed against children, punish those who recruit kids for illegal gang activity, and crack down on young people who don’t show up for their delinquency hearings.”

① Read the Mayor’s complete address at:
<http://dc.gov/mayor/speeches/speech.asp?id=98&mon=200503>

① Also this past week, Mayor Williams presented his fiscal year 2006 budget and financial plan, which, among other provisions, will maintain the MPDC at 3,800 officers and expand police forensic capabilities. Read the Mayor’s testimony on his budget plan at:
<http://dc.gov/news/speech.asp?id=99>

MPDC LAUNCHES NEW CAMPAIGN TO EDUCATE PUBLIC ABOUT AUTOMATED TRAFFIC ENFORCEMENT

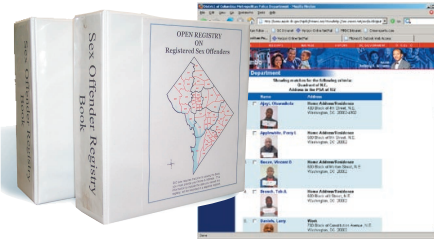
In the same week that the MPDC began issuing tickets to aggressive speeders at four new stationary photo radar camera locations, the Department launched a new campaign to educate the public about the dangers of aggressive driving and the Department’s use of automated traffic enforcement technology to combat the problem. The Department’s “Eye on Safety” campaign includes radio ads that began airing on nearly a dozen radio stations, including two Spanish-language stations. The humorous ads, which feature a character called “Flash” (billed as the world’s fastest man) who is slowed down by DC’s photo enforcement cameras, will run periodically during March, April and May. They will be supported by Metro bus advertising, slated to begin in April. The campaign coincides with the most recent expansion of DC’s automated traffic safety program: the activation of four new stationary speeding reduction cameras in Northeast and Northwest DC. Following a month-long period in which only warning notices were generated from the new cameras, the MPDC began issuing speeding violations on March 21.

① Read the news release on the new cameras at:
<http://app.mpdcc.gov/newsroom/newsroom.asp?sid=3118>

① For detailed information on DC’s automated traffic enforcement programs—both red-light intersection safety and photo radar speeding reduction—visit:
http://mpdc.dc.gov/mpdc/cwp/view,a,1240,Q,548131,mpdcNav_GID,1547,.asp

SPOTLIGHT ON...MPDC'S SEX OFFENDER REGISTRY UNIT

The MPDC's Sex Offender Registry Unit (SORU) is responsible for implementing DC's Sex Offender Registration Act, which requires individuals convicted of certain sex offenses to register with authorities. To carry out the law, the SORU works in partnership with the Court Services and Offender Supervision Agency. CSOSA completes the registration process and then forwards the information to the SORU for public dissemination via the Sex Offender Registry, a valuable tool for both law enforcement and the community at large. The MPDC shares this information with the public in several ways, including the Department's website and registry books that are located at police facilities throughout DC (including the SORU, Room 3009 of Police Headquarters). The public is reminded that information obtained from the Sex Offender Registry is to be used responsibly to promote public safety. Unlawful use of registry information to threaten, intimidate, harass or injure a registered sex offender will be prosecuted to the full extent of the law.



MPDC JOINS FTC IN WARNING ABOUT INTERNET "PHISHING"

Internet scammers have a new way to lure unsuspecting victims: they go "phishing." Phishing is a high-tech scam that uses spam or pop-up messages to deceive victims into disclosing credit card numbers, bank account information, Social Security number, passwords or other sensitive information. The e-mail or pop-up message claims to be from a business or organization you deal with—Internet service provider (ISP), bank, online payment service, or even a government agency. The message usually says that you need to "update" or "validate" your account information, and directs you to a website that looks like legitimate. But it's actually a bogus site designed to trick you into divulging your personal information so the scammers can steal your identity. If you get an e-mail or pop-up message that asks for personal or financial information, do not reply or click on the link in the message. Legitimate companies don't ask for this information via e-mail. It's also important that you report suspicious activity to authorities. The Federal Trade Commission recommends that if you get "phishing" spam, forward it to spam@uce.gov.

NEWS & NOTES

MPDC Website Update. The MPDC has migrated its website to a new database-driven platform that is consistent with the rest of the [dc.gov](http://www.mpdcc.gov) site. The web address (www.mpdcc.gov) and look-and-feel of the site remain the same. But if you have bookmarked individual pages on the MPDC site, you may need to update your "favorites." Also, if you notice any dead links or other problems with the upgraded site, please e-mail kaylin.junge@dc.gov.

Youth Opportunity Summit on April 2. The MPDC's Seventh District, in conjunction with the East of the River Clergy-Police-Community Partnership, is holding a Youth Opportunity Summit and Town Hall Meeting on Saturday, April 2, from 10 am to 2 pm, at Matthews Memorial Baptist Church, 2616 Martin Luther King Jr. Ave., SE. Entitled "No Time for Crime: Busy Youth, Busy Minds," the event will include information about summer jobs, camps and other recreational activities, as well as door prizes and refreshments. For details, call 7D Community Outreach Coordinator Lendia Johnson at (202) 698-1454 or e-mail her at lendia.johnson@dc.gov.

New Chair of 2D CAC. The Second District Citizens Advisory Council has a new chair. Samantha Nolan was recently elected to the post, replacing Jim Lively, who stepped down after serving as head of the CAC for many years. CAC members advise the commander and other officials on public safety needs and priorities, and each chair serves on the Chief's Advisory Council. For more info, go to http://mpdc.dc.gov/mpdc/cwp/view,a,1238,q,542195,mpdcNav_GID,1541.asp.

① Learn more about DC's Sex Offender Registration program by calling the SORU at (202) 727-4407 or by visiting: http://mpdc.dc.gov/mpdc/cwp/view,a,1241,q,540704,mpdcNav_GID,1523,mpdcNav_|.asp

① Under DC law, offenders are classified as Class A, B or C registrants, with Class A involving the most serious offenses. Class A and B offenders are posted on the MPDC website (currently about 580 offenders). The printed registry books contain all three classes of registrants (currently about 607 offenders).

① A brochure explaining the Sex Offender Registration program can be ordered from the SORU by calling 727-4407.

① Learn more about phishing at: <http://www.ftc.gov/bcp/conline/pubs/alerts/phishingalrt.htm>

① Detailed information on the problem of identify theft, how to protect yourself and what to do if you believe you are a victim can be found on the MPDC website at: http://mpdc.dc.gov/mpdc/cwp/view,a,1237,q,543161,mpdcNav_GID,1555.asp

DATA BOX

Homicides	as of 3/25/05
◆ 2005: 38	
◆ 2004: 43	
◆ % Change: -11.6%	
◆ Closure Rate: 60.5% (23 closures)	
Adult Arrests	week end. 3/19/05
◆ Total: 711	
◆ Drugs: 145	
◆ Weapons: 17	
◆ Motor Vehicle Theft: 13	
◆ Prostitution/Sex Offenses: 17	
Juvenile Activity	week end. 3/19/05
◆ Arrests: 67	
◆ Curfew Violations: 91	
◆ Truants: 127	
Firearm Recoveries	as of 3/23/05
◆ March: 111	
◆ 2005 Total: 649	
Traffic Fatalities	as of 3/25/05
◆ 2005: 12	
◆ 2004: 12	
◆ % Change: +Unch	

Information, ideas, or comments about this service? Send an e-mail to **KEVIN MORISON**, MPDC's Director of Corporate Communications, at kevin.morison@dc.gov. Would you like to have this information e-mailed to you? Just go to our Website and register with **Crimereports.com**.

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